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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/858,267	05/15/2001	Yasuo Tatsumi	12109.44US01	2685

7590

08/23/2002

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EXAMINER

SPITZER, ROBERT H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1724

DATE MAILED: 08/23/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/858,267

Applicant(s)
Yasuo Tatsumi et al.

Examiner
Robert H. Spitzer

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1724



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Aug 15, 2002
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6-8 and 10-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6-8 and 10-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
2. Claims 6-8 and 10-12 are again rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by the apparatus of either Sircar (5,071,449), who show particles of 0.2 to 1 mm size, or Rouge et al. (5,891,218), who show in Figs. 2-5 and Tables III and VII, particles (balls) of adsorbent with diameters of 1 mm., or Gmelin et al. (5,228,888), who show adsorbent particles with a diameter of 10 to 40 mesh, or Horooka et al. (5,122,164), who show preferred adsorbent particle sizes of 12 to 20 mesh, at col. 3, lines 29-37 . Putting those particle values into the velocity equation will result in values which are the same as Applicants' particles.
3. Applicant's arguments filed August 15, 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Specifying the equation for calculating the velocity values does not provide any structure to the adsorber housing, as such recited structure is merely a housing that contains the specific size of adsorbent particles. That is, the claims recite structure which includes an adsorber housing containing adsorbent particles of a specific size. That specific size is 1 mm. All of the above references show an adsorber housing containing adsorbent particles having that size and being used in an adsorption process. It appears, at best, that the velocity equation would be a process variable and not an apparatus limiting variable, as the equation adds nothing to the basic structure being recited in these claims. Further, as all four references have particle values within those recited in these claims, the references would also have to have velocity values which satisfy

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the equation. Any other remarks made by Applicants and not specifically commented on by the Examiner have been considered.

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert H. Spitzer whose telephone number is (703) 308-3794. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 5:30 AM to 4:00 PM .

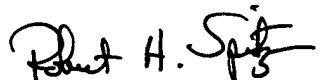
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Simmons, can be reached on (703) 308-1972. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9310 and for After Final communications the fax number is (703) 872-9311.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

Robert H. Spitzer

August 22, 2002


ROBERT H. SPITZER
PRIMARY EXAMINER

T.C. 1700

August 22, 2002